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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
GROUP 1711
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Franz DANEKAS, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/910,902

Confirmation No.: 3369

Filed: July 24, 2001

Docket No: Q63847

Group Art Unit: 1711

Examiner: Jeffrey C. MULLIS

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING ELECTRICAL CABLES COATED WITH CROSS-LINKED POLYETHYLENE

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

ATTN: BOX AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 20, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 3, please delete the third full paragraph and replace it with the following paragraph:

This object is attained by a method for producing electrical cables coated with cross-linked polyethylene, in which a polyethylene granulate is mixed with a liquid silane-containing cross-linking agent, the granulate mixture thus prepared is melted in an extruder and extruded onto the electrical cable, and the extruded coating is cross-linked in the presence of water or

steam, wherein the granulate mixture comprises a mixture of a granular material of a polyethylene homopolymer and a copolymer of ethylene, and wherein the copolymer content in the insulating coating on the cable is between 1 and 8% by weight. In this method, the granulate mixture can be coated with a liquid mixture of silane, peroxide and possibly a stabilizer prior to a compounding process, or it can be coated with a liquid mixture of silane, peroxide and possibly a stabilizer during the compounding process. Also, in this method, the granulate material coated with cross-linking agent can be grafted, homogenized and subsequently regranulated; the regranulate provided with a catalyst or a catalyst batch can be introduced into an extruder, extruded onto the electrical cable, and the coating extruded onto the electrical cable is cross-linked in the presence of water or steam, or the granulate polyethylene homopolymer material alone can be coated with the liquid cross-linking agent in a compounding system, melted, grafted, homogenized and subsequently regranulated, and the regranulate and a granular copolymer of ethylene and a catalyst, are placed into an extruder, where the mixture is melted, homogenized and extruded onto the electrical cable, wherein the compounding system can include an extruder. In the method, the copolymer of ethylene used can be an ethylene-acrylate copolymer which is an ethylene butyl acrylate (EBA), an ethylene ethyl acrylate (EEA) or an ethylene methyl acrylate (EMA). In the method, a granular material of polyethylene homopolymer and copolymer of ethylene can be placed into an extruder, a liquid mixture of silane, peroxide and possibly a stabilizer as well as a catalyst or a highly concentrated catalyst batch is likewise placed into the extruder, and the mixture is melted, grafted and homogenized in